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*BALOCH FURY AGAINST CHINA'S CPEC REACHES TIPPING POINT*

**Gwadar port, keystone of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, is witnessing protests over worsening economic conditions**

**NO DEVELOPMENT, ONLY MORE POVERTY**

Thousands in Gwadar, a city in Pakistan's poor Balochistan province, have been protesting for weeks over a dire lack of drinking water, hospitals and schools. In addition, the locals are angry over a wipe-out of livelihoods due to licences issued to Chinese trawlers. They say the government has failed in its promise to bring economic development through Chinese projects

**IMRAN REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CHINA**

- To protect economic interests, the government's checkposts and movement restrictions have turned Gwadar into a security state
- Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has neglected the desperate pleas of those the projects were supposed to benefit, and instead said on Saturday that supporting Chinese firms is his priority | P11

**$60 bn**

**ESTIMATED VALUE OF CPEC, THE KEY PART OF CHINA'S 'BELT AND ROAD'**

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

# Crops in 3.43L hectares damaged

1.5 lakh farmers affected; Joint survey soon; ₹500 cr released to repair roads across state

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

CROPS in 3.43 lakh hectares of land have been damaged, affecting over 1.5 lakh farmers after heavy rain pounded the state in August and September, said sources on Sunday, quoting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The government has already released Rs 130 crore as compensation to farmers. Another 79,000 agriculturists would receive Rs 52 crore which was ordered to be released on Sunday, the CM told officials.

After a meeting with Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar and eight other senior bureaucrats, Bommai is said to have told them that over the next three weeks, agriculture, revenue and horticulture department officials will conduct joint surveys in rain-affected areas, review crop damage and give feedback to the government. Revenue Minister R Ashoka, Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar and others were present at the meeting.

In all, 24 people have died, and 658 houses damaged, 95 of them partially. 191 cattle heads, sheep and goat are dead.

Each of the eight zones in the BBMP limits has been given Rs 25 lakh to immediately attend to the damage caused. He instructed officials to ensure that the roads are given priority. As there are gaping potholes across the city, the BBMP has to erect protective barricades and ensure proper streetlighting to prevent injuries to motorists.

He is said to have requested insurance companies to expedite payments for crop loss. He instructed officials to record the damage, especially to houses, with photographs and to release Rs 1 lakh immediately.

Releasing Rs 500 crore to repair roads, Bommai is said to have asked officials to direct PWD and Rural Development departments to restore roads.

Deputy commissioners have Rs 689 crore at their disposal and they should use the funds for rain-related works. If more money is needed, they could send a request to the government immediately, the sources said quoting CM.

Bommai noted that the highest damage due to rain has been caused in Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Kolar-Chikkaballapur, Ramanagar and Hassan districts, where 1,674 electric poles and 278 transformers have been damaged. P7

A view of the Purandara Mantapa in Hampi, before (left) and after (right) it got submerged in the waters of the River Tungabhadra, which lies in spate due to heavy rain over the last few days | SUDHAKARA JAMBAGI

**Poll code delaying succour, says CM**

Visiting flood-affected areas in Chikkaballapur earlier on Sunday, CM Basavaraj Bommai said, "The disbursal of compensation amount has been delayed in various places due to continuous rain. Ministers are touring their respective in-charge districts." "There has been a delay in reaching succour to the affected people as there is an election code of conduct in place due to the Legislative Council polls. We have to seek permission from the Election Commission before announcing any relief. We are planning to write to the EC soon," he said.

# SACHIN PILOTS HIS WAY IN, GETS 5 FOLLOWERS INDUCTED

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE long-pending cabinet reshuffle in the Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan government went off smoothly on Sunday afternoon, with dissident leader Sachin Pilot claiming it sent a positive message across the state. In all, 11 cabinet ministers and four ministers of state (MoS) were sworn in.

The 11 cabinet ministers include three who have been elevated from MoS. As a result, only 12 new ministers were inducted. Three ministers — Govind Singh Dotasra, Harish Chaudhary and Raghu Sharma — who hold key positions in the party have been dropped. All others have been retained.

The reshuffle exercise is a bid to pacify the Pilot faction, which had revolted against Gehlot last year and sparked off a major crisis for the Congress. Pilot, a former Rajasthan deputy chief minister, figures nowhere in the Cabinet.

Ashok Gehlot

Sachin Pilot

**MORE JAT & DALIT REPRESENTATION**

Gehlot's cabinet now has four Jat faces, as the Jats play a key role in about 50 seats. Three Dalit ministers, Mamta Bhupesh, Bhajanlal Jatav, Tikaram Julie, have been promoted from minister of state to cabinet rank

Only a respectable position for him will ensure long-term peace and harmony in the state party unit.

The ministers who took oath as a part of the cabinet include Hemaram Chaudhary, Ramlal Jat, Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, Mahesh Joshi, Vishvendra Singh, Ramesh Meena, Mamta Bhupesh, Bhajan Lal Jatav, Tikaram Julie, Govind Ram Meghwal and Shakuntala Rawat. Dalits, women and tribals got good representation in the revamped ministry.

Among those sworn in on Sunday, Hemaram Chaudhary, Vishvendra Singh and Ramesh Meena are regarded as integral members of the Pilot camp and took oath as cabinet Ministers. Singh and Meena had to lose their seats in the political crisis that erupted over the Pilot rebellion last year. Brijendra Singh Ola and Murari Lal Meena, who have been made MoS, are also Pilot loyalists.

Gehlot also appointed five MLAs as his advisors, three of whom are among the 13 Independents supporting his government. Also, one of the ex-BSP MLAs who joined the Congress has been included.

EXPRESS READ

**Mamata on a 3-day visit to New Delhi**

New Delhi: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is in New Delhi for three days from Monday to possibly talk strategy with Opposition leaders ahead of start of the Parliament winter session on November 29. She may also meet PM Modi | P10

**'Team's spirit legacy from my time'**

Chennai: In an exclusive interview with this daily, former head coach, Ravi Shastri, said the biggest legacy of his time would be the team's "never-say-die attitude... no one could write them off. And if you did, it was at your own peril" | P13

IN-STEP

A viral picture of PM Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath taking a stroll in Lucknow's Raj Bhawan on Sunday, set the tone for the state polls | PTI

| NATIONWIDE | NOV 20 | NOV 21 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 10,302 | 10,488 |
| Recoveries | 11,787 | 12,329 |
| Deaths | 267 | 313 |

| KARNATAKA | NOV 20 | NOV 21 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 213 | 247 |
| Recoveries | 370 | 278 |
| Deaths | 5 | 1 |

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

November 20: 60,25,558 doses

November 21: 32,70,520 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 116,85,74,185

HAVING THEIR WAY

# 6 demands in SKM letter to PM; Cabinet to set ball rolling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi/Chandigarh

THE formal process to rollback the three contentious farm laws promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi could begin on Wednesday when the Union Cabinet is expected to take up for approval bills seeking their withdrawal. These bills will then be introduced in Parliament after its winter session begins on November 29.

At the Singhu border on Sunday, a meeting of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmer unions, reiterated its decision to go ahead with the planned march to Parliament to mark one year of their protests.

It later wrote an open letter to Modi listing six demands: legally guaranteed MSP mechanism; withdrawal of draft bill on power sector reforms; withdrawal of measures to penalise farmers burning stubble around Delhi; withdrawal of cases against agitating farmers; sacking Union minister Ajay Mishra for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence; and compensation to the families of the 700 farmers who died during the course of the agitation as also land around Singhu border to build a memorial for them.

SKM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said, "The pre-decided programmes will continue: mahapanchayat in Lucknow on November 22; gatherings at all border points on November 26; and march to Parliament on November 29." The next course of action will be decided on November 27. Sunday's meeting also decided to seek the terms of reference of the panel the Centre will set up on MSP, farmer leader Harinder Singh Lakhowal said.

WINGMAN

# *From Port Blair to B'luru, it's Rudy in cockpit*

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IT was a trip to remember for flyers on board two Indigo flights on Sunday. MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy, a commercial pilot licence holder and also a former civil aviation minister, was in the cockpit from Port Blair to Bengaluru (6E 6596) as well as from Bengaluru to Patna (6E 485). Both flights had 180-plus passengers on board.

The MP from the Saran constituency in Patna is on the roster of Indigo as an honorary co-pilot since January 2013, and is the only parliamentarian in the world who also steers planes. Rajiv Gandhi was the only Prime Minister to hold a commercial pilot licence.

MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy (L) with Rajya Sabha member Sambhaji Chhatrapati on board the aircraft on Sunday.

Rudy, who is part of the 32-member Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, flew after a meeting at Havelock Islands near Port Blair on Sunday.

Speaking to *TNIE* over phone after signing off from his piloting duties in Patna, Rudy said with a laugh, "I fly on and off and prefer to do so quietly. But many onboard usually approach me for selfies and someone or the other makes it public!"

This time Rajya Sabha member Sambhaji Chhatrapati tweeted a photograph of Rudy in his pilot uniform. P7

**A 'frequent flyer'**

Rudy was given the honour of steering the maiden Indigo flight from Kolkata to Darbhanga to Bihar on July 5, 2021. A week later on July 13, he piloted a flight that had Chennai Central MP Dayanidhi Maran.

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